

## Reflecting Back on 2010 in District A

### January 13, 2010

Houston City Council approved and authorized the appropriation of funds for the design of **Tanner Road improvements** from Hempstead Highway to Beltway 8 (CIP N-0589). Improvements will upgrade the existing 2-lane asphalt roadway to a boulevard section with two 24-foot lanes separated by a raised median with reinforced concrete curbs. Completion of the project is scheduled for the end of 2011.

### January 28, 2010

Crime Stoppers of Houston and Houston City Council Member Brenda Stardig kicked off the **2nd Annual Illegal Dumping Campaign**.

Katherine Cabaniss and Amy Smith of Crime Stoppers played a pivotal role in the success of the 2nd Annual Campaign. Media outlets attended the press conference and the message of fighting illegal dumping in neighborhoods made it through the airways. Crime Stoppers will continue to ask the public for information on identifying suspects caught in the act of illegal dumping.



*(from left to right) Solid Waste Director Harry Hayes, Carverdale community leader Cora Johnson, Council Member Brenda Stardig, Executive Director of Crime Stoppers Katherine Cabaniss, Neighborhood Protection Assistant Police Chief Mark Curran and State Representative Dwayne Bohac.*

### February 2010

With help from the Solid Waste Management Department, a clean up took place in Carverdale. The area, south of Highway 290 and east of Sam Houston Tollway, was cleared of trash, debris, and other illegal dumping.

### February 16, 2010

**Spring Branch Management District (SBMD)** unveiled new street signs throughout the district. According to the SBMD, the Spring Branch area has new street signs on 285 large intersection signs and 425 smaller pole signs for a total of 710 new street signs.



### February 18, 2010

Council Member Stardig hosted a district **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meeting**. City Departments gave updates on District A Capital Improvement Projects including Neighborhood Street Reconstruction (NSR) projects, water line replacement projects and park improvements.

### February 22, 2010

**Kendall Library** is the first combined library and community center to be built in Houston and is the city's first three-story neighborhood library and first library with a drive up window. The new library and community center nearly doubles the size of the library from the previous location of 9,600 square feet to 19,000 square feet.

### February 27, 2010

Approximately 150 trees were planted at Jaycee Park with assistance from the Friends of Jaycee Park, Trees for Houston and City of Houston's Urban Forestry, a division of the Parks Department.

### March 2010

**ROSS Dress for Less** store opened near the Oak Forest community on West 43<sup>rd</sup> St near Ella Blvd.

### March 30, 2010

Council Member Brenda Stardig, Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's (HPD) Northwest Division hosted a **Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMV) press conference**. HPD reports BMVs among the most easily preventable crimes in Houston and encourages citizens to lock their vehicles and hide their belongings to remove any temptation for potential thieves. The BMV Press Conference wrapped up HPD's ongoing March on Crime Campaign.

### April 24, 2010

Council Member Stardig and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department celebrated the opening of the **T.C. Jester Dog Park**. The Park contains a 31,000-square foot run for big dogs and a 16,000-square foot run for small dogs, for a total enclosure of 1.08 acres.

### April 28, 2010

Houston City Council approved sidewalk improvements in District A as part of the city's **Safe Sidewalk Program**. New ramps will be constructed on Metronome between Shadowdale and Mallard and new sidewalks will be constructed on Cedar Post Oak Lane between Long Point and Westview.



### May 6, 2010

Council Member Stardig brought HPD division **VICE** and **The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission** to the **Neighborhood Protection and Quality of Life committee** meeting to discuss how citizens can lodge complaints on establishments that serve alcohol and address concerns about bars serving alcohol after hours.

### May 13, 2010

**Houston Fire Department Station 90** was opened and offers new features into the station to help reduce power and water consumption. These feature include: highly reflective roofing to reduce cooling costs, water detention systems which an collect up to 6,000 gallons of rainwater to use for on-site irrigation, native vegetation to help filter impurities from run-off storm water, and centrally located windows to allow natural light into the building and reduce the need for artificial light during daylight hours.

### May 19, 2010

Council Member Brenda Stardig, the Houston Police Department, Spring Branch ISD Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office and Crime Stoppers gave invaluable crime prevention tips to area residents during the **District A Crime Prevention Town Hall Meeting**. An estimated 200 residents attended the meeting and received information regarding international drug cartels, drug trafficking, neighborhood gang activity, burglary of motor vehicles/homes and the multi-family habitability program.

### June 2010

Council Member Stardig's budget amendment request was approved by the Mayor and the City of Houston reestablished the **Neighborhood Matching Grants Program (NMGP)**. Applications were submitted for fall 2010 and the Jaycee Park Improvement Project and the Shepherd Park Labyrinth Plan Project were accepted to receive grants from this program.

### June 9, 2010

**North Shepherd Kroger** under went an expansive remodeling. The store is now 89,000 square feet, making it the largest Kroger in Houston proper.

### July 8, 2010

**Houston Fire Department Station 5** reopened. Renovations include a functional kitchen offering increased counter space, high efficiency appliances, new cabinetry, new porcelain tile and carpet, updated bathroom cabinets, countertops and fixtures.

Along with Assistant Chief Flanagan and Spring Valley Mayor Mike Andrews, Council Member Stardig cuts the ribbon for the re-grand opening of Fire Station 5.



### July 16, 2010

Improvements at **White Oak Waste Water Treatment Plant** were completed as a CIP project. The project provided the construction of electrical, mechanical and piping improvements at the wastewater treatment facility. The improvements were required to control operations and maintenance costs and ensure regulatory compliance.

### August 4, 2010

City Council approved \$500,000 for the purchase of equipment for the **Oak Forest Library** which is currently undergoing renovation. The monies were appropriated from the Public Library Consolidated Construction Fund for the purchase of adult, teen and childhood books, audio-visual materials, information technology equipment, materials security and self checkout machines. The renovation project includes a new 4,000 square foot expansion to the facility and the library is projected to re-open in Spring 2011.

### August 10, 2010

Council Member Stardig and the Solid Waste Department (SWD) hosted two **Recycling Town Hall meetings** where attendees received information on City of Houston SWD services and potential expansion of the City's Recycling Program. In addition, information was presented on how residents can be active and support their local fire stations through the City's Adopt-A-Fire Station.

### August 14, 2010

The **Spring Branch Family Development Center (SBFDC)** hosted the **Back to School Health Fair** with the help from the City of Houston and District A. More than 6,000 individuals attended the event and 750 children were immunized. Over 2,500 backpacks were given out filled with school supplies. Three hundred volunteers assisted in the health fair with 42 different vendors providing information for those in attendance. The SBFDC were able to help hundreds of children all within four hours.

### August 16, 2010

Council Member Stardig joined various representatives at the **Antoine Corridor Stakeholders Community Meeting**. The meeting discussed the status of apartments, security, and redevelopment for the area. The Near Northwest Management District's application was approved by the Houston-Galveston Area Council for consideration for a Livable Centers Grant. The grant will provide funding to design recommendations and infrastructure improvements to make the area more accessible and improve the traffic.

### August 2010

The blighted apartment/condominium complex, **Candlelight Trails**, was demolished after three years of legal battles. Council Member Stardig joined Mayor Annise Parker and Representative Sylvester Turner at the demolition site to rid the area of a dangerous property.

### September 1, 2010

City Council approved a **Chapter 380 economic development agreement** with Intown Homes Ltd. for the development of over 1,000 single family homes in District A. Intown Homes will provide up to \$20 million in public improvements associated with residential developments in



Cottage Grove and Upland Park and Kolbe Farms (a site near Hammerly at Hollister). The cost of these public improvements will be reimbursed from the future increase in ad valorem taxes resulting from the new development.

### September 10, 2010

Council Member Stardig took a tour with **Housing and Community Development** Director Jim Noteware to view some of the challenged multi-family developments in District A. The tour was coordinated to introduce the new Housing Director to the district and explain the concerns the Council Member had about dangerous and blighted multifamily housing.

### September 15, 2010

City Council passed amendments to the **Chapter 28 Code of Ordinance** authorizing the transfer of the permitting function for sexually oriented businesses to Administrative Regulatory Affairs from Houston Police Department. The transfer of the permitting will allow for five full time police officers to return to enforcement full time. HPD estimates this will reallocation of personnel will save approximately \$500,000 of police resources.

### September 17, 2010

The District A office hosted a **Movie Night at Candlelight Park**. Attendees enjoyed the movie *Madagascar* and Jack the Possum from the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition made an appearance.

### September 23, 2010

Spring Branch Independent School District celebrated the grand opening of **Westwood Elementary**. The new school is located on 10595 Hammerly and is a one-story 97,000 square foot serving 750 students. Westwood is built on a new land parcel adjacent to Agnes Moffett Park that includes two playground areas, a soccer field, kickball field, a separate running track, and covered play area.

### October 5, 2010

Council Member Stardig and staff took part in **National Night Out**. The national event was created to bring together neighborhoods with local police officers to foster communication and awareness. Council Member Stardig and her staff visited several neighborhood gatherings and enjoyed spending time with the residents and representatives from the Houston Police and Fire Department.

### October 8, 2010

Council Member Stardig participated in **Fire Ops Training** hosted by the Houston Fire Department. Some of the training activities included repelling and riding on a HFD apparatus to respond to a staged fire. The training Council Member participated in is part of what Houston Fire Academy trainees experience in their training to work for the fire department.

Council Member Stardig dressed in the standard firefighter gear, which could weigh over 50 pounds with all the required equipment on.



### October 13, 2010

City Council passed amendments to **Chapter 10** of the Houston Code of Ordinances. The amendments allow an additional administrative hearing process and an effective way to impose administrative penalties as a more efficient and speedy alternative to the prosecution of certain health and safety violations through the municipal courts, enabling the City to address the problem of dangerous buildings.

### October 14, 2010

**Ridgecrest Elementary School** celebrated its official grand opening. The Spring Branch Independent School District project is a 108,000 sq ft, two-story building with gym, library, cafeteria, kitchen, and administrative offices.

### October 21, 2010

**Hollibrook Elementary** at 3602 Hollister had its grand opening. This is a new 110,000 sq ft replacement school was completed in three phases and now houses 800 students.

### October 21, 2010

The **Rehabilitation of Ground Storage Tanks** was completed as one of City of Houston's CIP projects. The plan provided for the inspection, rehabilitation and preventive maintenance of existing ground water storage tanks including Acres Homes Tanks 1 and 2; Southwest Tank 5; and Spring Branch Tank 1 and 2. This project was necessary to meet the water storage capacity requirement of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Annual State Inspection.

### October 28, 2010

Spring Branch ISD held their **Good Neighbors 2010 Event** at the Omni Houston Hotel. SBISD founded the Good Neighbor Award to recognize individuals, business, and organizations who strive to unite the community and encourage efforts to build our schools for the betterment of our youth.

Council Member Stardig was honored with an award for her commitment to serving the Spring Branch school district. Mayor Annise Parker and the City of Houston were also awarded "Good Neighbor" awards for assisting with the Back to School Community Health Fair and other various events.

### November 3, 2010

City Council approved \$1.3 million in right-of-way acquisition for the **Long Point Road Reconstruction Project** from Hollister Road to Pech Road. The newly purchased parcels will be used as the street right-of-way for further development. Street and utility improvements are being made to improve traffic mobility, drainage, and to reduce traffic congestion in the service area.

### November 3, 2010

Council Member Stardig attended the groundbreaking for the **SpringSpirit Baseball Community Center and Education Complex**. The Spring Branch venue will provide children an area to play and learn life lessons through baseball and softball. Once completed, SpringSpirit



Baseball will be able to offer programming and activities designed to reach more than 500 boys and girls annually.



President and Founder Kenny Baldwin, Senior Pastor at Chapelwood United Methodist Church Jim Jackson, Founder Melissa Baldwin, and Executive Director of Spring Branch Family Development Center Ricardo Barnes join Council Member Stardig in breaking ground at the Community Center and Education Complex.

#### **November 4, 2010**

Council Member Stardig and stakeholders held a meeting regarding proposed reconstruction and widening of **Campbell Road** between Clay Road and Hempstead Highway. Business owners and stakeholders attended the meeting and received information on the scope of the proposed project and had their questions addressed.

#### **November 4, 2010**

The Texas Department of Transportation's Houston District received approval from the Texas Transportation Commission for an allocation of \$140 million in Proposition 14 funds to advance additional construction on the **IH 610/US 290 Interchange**, as part of the US 290/Hempstead Corridor Program.

The approved allocation will allow the Houston District to purchase right-of-way parcels and provide funding to build out remaining segments of the IH 610/US 290 interchange.

#### **November 5, 2010**

The reconstruction of the **Long Point Intersection at Blalock** was completed. The CIP project expanded pavement width, esplanade width and sidewalks. Phases included the redesign of intersections at Antoine, Wirt, Pech, Blalock and Bingle.

### November 5, 2010

The Combined Municipal Campaign (CMC) held their annual **Bowl-A-Rama fundraising** event at Palace Lanes. As sponsoring Council Member to the event, Council Member Stardig chose the Houston Police Department's Blue Santa organization as the event's charity. Proceeds of the event went to the organization, dedicated in providing toys to underprivileged children in the Houston Metro area. The event was a huge success, raising \$1145 for the organization.

### November 18, 2010

**Cedar Brook Elementary SPARK Park** opened on November 18<sup>th</sup> within the Spring Branch community. The Cedar Brook Elementary School SPARK Park is fully equipped with a refurbished outdoor classroom, new swings, student-tiled entryway, and new whale and ship play equipment.

### December 2010

**Texas Children's West Hospital** is one of the largest suburban pediatric medical centers in the nation conveniently located on 55 acres of land at I -10 and Barker Cypress. Phase I includes the outpatient building opened in December 2010. Phase II is scheduled to open in the spring of 2011.

### December 6, 2010

The **Ella Square Apartments** located at 3011 Ella Boulevard in northwest Houston were demolished. The rundown multi-family complex had been cited numerous times for various safety violations by the City of Houston.

The property owner voluntarily demolished the complex which had been issued over 25 citations by Houston Police Department Differential Response Team officers. The property owner plans to develop the now vacant lot into two pads of stores and a restaurant.



Council Member Stardig operated the backhoe and helped get rid of the blighted apartment complex.



### December 7, 2010

The **Ring Neighborhood Library** reopened after construction was made to expand the library. Improvements were made include a new meeting room which can accommodate 50 people, ADA accessibility upgrades to the entrance, restrooms, and paths of travel and a new exterior of the building constructed from glass.



Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, Juanita Elizondo, Council Member Stardig, Susan Bischoff, Harriet Calvin Latimer, and Cathryn Rodd Selman from the Houston Public Library and the Houston Public Library Foundation accept a certificate of appreciation for the organization's involvement with the newly remodeled library.

### December 17, 2010

**Methodist West Houston Hospital**, located at I-10 and Barker Cypress, opened its doors December 17th. The hospital will bring Leading Medicine to West Houston, providing the latest in medical technology and patient care.

### December 15, 2010

**The Greenstar Recycling Center** located at 1200 Brittmoore, upgraded their warehouse to facilitate all of the recyclable materials accumulated by the City's Single Stream Recycling program. The materials are brought to the center where they are sorted, cleaned, crushed, and processed into large bales for shipment to recycling markets. Council Member Stardig attended the Grand Opening along with Laura Spanjian, the Director of Sustainability.

### December 15, 2010

City Council approved to increase various **municipal fees** starting January 1, 2011. Numerous fees the City was charging users did not cover the cost of service. Council Member Stardig worked closely with the Administration and the Finance Department to review the city fee structure.

## December 22, 2010

The Department of Solid Waste Management (SWM) in partnership with Keep Houston Beautiful (KHB) and DRC, Inc. held the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Bike Giveaway**.

During the holidays, Solid Waste donates bicycles to various departments within the city for them to “giveaway” to families or organizations in need for girls and boys between the ages of 6-10 years.

Council Member Stardig attended the event where District A received bikes to donate to individuals at the Spring Branch Family Development Center. Executive director Ricardo Barnes was on hand to accept the bicycles on behalf of the families. In total, SWM gave away over 25 bicycles for the cause.



Solid Waste Director Harry Hayes, Council Member Stardig, and Spring Branch Family Development Center Executive Director, Ricardo Barnes at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike Giveaway.

## December 28, 2010

Crime Stoppers Executive Director Katherine Cabaniss and Council Member Stardig hosted the **Eighth Annual Anti-Celebratory Gunfire** press conference at HPD’s Spring Branch Store Front. Council Member Stardig, with the help of Crime Stoppers, sought to reduce and prevent this dangerous practice, and to educate the public that this conduct is a criminal offense.

## Other Noteworthy Achievements

- **\$500,000** in Community Development Block Grant funds were awarded to the **Houston Korean Community Center**. The Houston Korean Community Center offers programs such as teaching Korean to the public, offering family counseling and hosting community seminars. The programs have a positive impact on the Spring Branch area and District A.
- **Schwartz Park** received a Community Development Block Grant of **\$350,000**. The District A Office submitted a proposal for Schwartz Park to be included in CDBG funding. As a result, Schwartz Park, located at 8203 Vogue, was awarded the funding and the money will fund new playground development at the park and increase the quality of life for the surrounding area.
- The CIP projects for **Water Line Replacement** were completed for two areas in District A. Project areas included Mangum Manor-South (completed May 21) and Woodlawn (completed December 14). Within this project, the design and construction of replacement distribution mains were made and upgrades to small mains that have documented maintenance problems were replaced.



- **Jaycee Park** received **\$64,000** in Community Development Block Grant to continue the renovation projects for the park.
- Council Member Stardig visited the twelve **City of Houston Fire Stations** located in District A. During her meetings with the firefighters at their stations she answered any questions they had and gave an overview of the district and city they serve.
- **Single Stream Recycling Program** - Solid Waste Management has expanded the Single Stream Recycling Program to over 30,000 more homes throughout the Houston area. Households recycle paper, glass, metal, cardboard, and plastic into one container without having to sort the goods by category.
- In 2010, City Council approved the **Prohibited Yard Parking** applications for the following neighborhoods in District A:
  - Kempwood Civic Association
  - MacGregor West Civic Association, Inc.
  - Royal Oaks Civic Association
  - Oak Forest Homeowners Association
  - Westview Terrace Association, Inc.
  - Ridgecrest Civic Club
  - Spring Oaks Civic Association

Council Member Stardig serves on **seven committees** within City Council and also is an alternate at Houston-Galveston Area Council.

**Committees served:**

- ★ Vice Chair, Neighborhood Protection & Quality of Life
- ★ Budget & Fiscal Affairs
- ★ Development & Regulatory Affairs
- ★ Flooding & Drainage
- ★ Public Safety & Homeland Security
- ★ Technology Initiatives & Human Services
- ★ Transportation, Infrastructure, & Aviation